

Speaking Notes – Emergency and Protective Services

Special Council Meeting – February 7, 2022

Kim Ayotte:

We understand that this has been, and continues to be, a frustrating and difficult time for residents who live and work in the downtown core.

The City continues to work in lockstep with the lead agency, the Ottawa Police Service, to restore some normalcy in our community.

Yesterday, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency related to the ongoing demonstration in the downtown core.

A State of Emergency recognizes the urgency of this unprecedented situation and its City-wide impacts and consequences.

~~By declaring a State of Emergency, the City is in a better position to make decisions even more quickly in this rapidly evolving situation.~~

It provides the ability to deploy more resources to the emergency, including through requests for assistance to other jurisdictions or levels of government.

It should be noted, however, that an emergency declaration does not provide the Mayor, nor anyone else in a municipality, with any extraordinary authorities that are not otherwise provided for in law, such as the imposition of a curfew.

Since the week of January 24, City staff have been working to support the Ottawa Police Service to prepare and respond to the demonstrations. City services are being coordinated around the clock through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). In

addition to supporting the Police in some of their enforcement work, the EOC has been working with a range of partners to mitigate impacts of the demonstrations on both residents and City services. This State of Emergency does help the City to deploy its emergency operations and staff in a more nimble fashion. The City's Emergency Operations Centre has staff fully dedicated to this event and continues to work with all City services and many external partners to support the Ottawa Police Service.

Over the weekend, for example, the Emergency Operations Centre worked with partners to relocate high risk home and community care clients whose level of care was compromised due to traffic impacts and concerns for the safety of healthcare workers entering the downtown core. The EOC is working closely with The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa Public Health, the City's own Human Needs Task Force and a range of community partners to ensure that the needs of healthcare workers, hospital patients, and those most vulnerable in our community, continue to be addressed. focused on assisting partners in supporting vulnerable residents in the downtown core, helping them access alternate living arrangements. The EOC also supported continuity of operations for the

LRT, which is providing a vital transportation lifeline to Ottawa residents. The LRT was able to operate without any station closures all weekend.

The work of the City's EOC will continue at full force, including the on-going liaison role we have with the National Capital Region Command Centre, which is the Police-led Area Command for this situation.

The Emergency Operations Centre also focused on supporting the National Capital Region Crisis Command Centre with a plan to ensure the continued operation of the LRT, which is providing a vital transportation lifeline right now to many Ottawa residents.

This weekend saw a pivot towards increased enforcement.

In support of enhanced Police enforcement activities, By-law and Regulatory Services' is working closely with the lead enforcement agency, Ottawa Police Service and other partner emergency services to ensure emergency services are maintained and public safety is upheld.

By-law's role in the ongoing demonstration is to support the lead enforcement agency, the Ottawa Police Service, in keeping the demonstration peaceful by assisting with parking control and other issues as requested by Police.

The goal of parking enforcement within the perimeter of the demonstration is to ensure that emergency lanes are clear, and the flow of traffic is maintained.

Since the demonstration began, By-law officers have issued almost 1000 parking tickets for

various violations associated with the demonstration. 780 of those were issued over this weekend alone.

By-law has also towed 29 vehicles in association with the protest for impeding traffic and blocking laneways.

Enforcement activities were also undertaken at Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Park, with Police, Ottawa Fire Services, and By-law working together to remove containers of fuel that were being stored there illegally.

Ottawa Fire Services is working closely with partners at the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and other agencies to monitor for any public safety concerns.

We are ready to respond to any situation that requires our assistance.

We said from the start that our number one priority was to maintain the safety of residents, businesses and demonstrators, and to maintain lanes for emergency vehicles.

This continues to be our focus today.

Dès le début, nous avons précisé que notre plus grande priorité était de protéger les résidents, les commerces et les manifestants, et de réserver des voies pour les véhicules d'urgence.

Et c'est ce sur quoi nous continuerons de nous concentrer aujourd'hui.